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MAYOR'S TRANSITION OFFICE
c/o Gustav Henningburg
40 Clinton Street - Suite 200
Newark, NJ 07102

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Sharpe James

DATE: February 18, 1987

FROM: Gustav Henningburg 

RE: Environmental Matters

Newark probably has as great a variety and as great of volume of environmental problems as any city in the State of New Jersey. Many of these could easily fit into the "ticking-time-bomb" category, and others have serious long-range economic and public-health implications.

At the same time, the existence of these environmental problems is not reflected in the top level staffing of City government. In other words, we have serious problems and nobody on staff with the training and skills to assist in developing and implementing environmental policy.

With this in mind, I would like to offer the following recommendation. NJIT has some of the nation's leading environmental specialists on it's faculty, well-versed in the technicalities, politics and implementation of urban environmental policy. I would like to suggest that you consider asking NJIT to loan you the services of one or more of their environmental experts to serve as unpaid advisors/consultants to you regarding such matters. In addition to advising on how best to handle the urgent environmental issues, I believe they could also be useful in advising on how best to institutionalize, budget and finance a permanent city environmental capability.

I have mentioned this informally to Dr. Fenster, President of NJIT, and he was enthusiastic in his willingness to have the institution assist the City in such fashion. If you think this would be useful, the process can be initiated by your simply writing to Dr. Fenster to make such a request. A suggested draft is enclosed for your consideration.

Sometime in the next few weeks you have a meeting scheduled with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Richard Dewling. The purpose of the meeting is for Dewling to fully brief you on those matters his department considers to be serious/urgent/crisis environmental problems in Newark. It would be useful for the NJIT person to be present when you meet with Dewling, if such arrangements can be made by that time.

Enclosure:

DRAFT...DRAFT...DRAFT...

Dr. Saul Fenster
President
NJIT
323 High Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Dr. Fenster:

The City of Newark and it's citizens are faced with as complex a set of environmental problems as perhaps any urban center in America. However, at present our Table of Organization and budget do not include a position for a top-level environmental specialist who could advise on policy development and implementation in this area.

As a temporary solution to this critical problem, this letter serves to inquire as to whether NJIT could make available the services of one or more of your faculty, on a part-time basis, to advise me on the development and implementation of an appropriate environmental policy for the City.

I realize that further discussions will be necessary about what our needs are and whether NJIT can provide appropriate assistance. This letter seeks to initiate such discussions between the City and NJIT.

I look forward to prompt reply.

Sincerely,